Resources Update

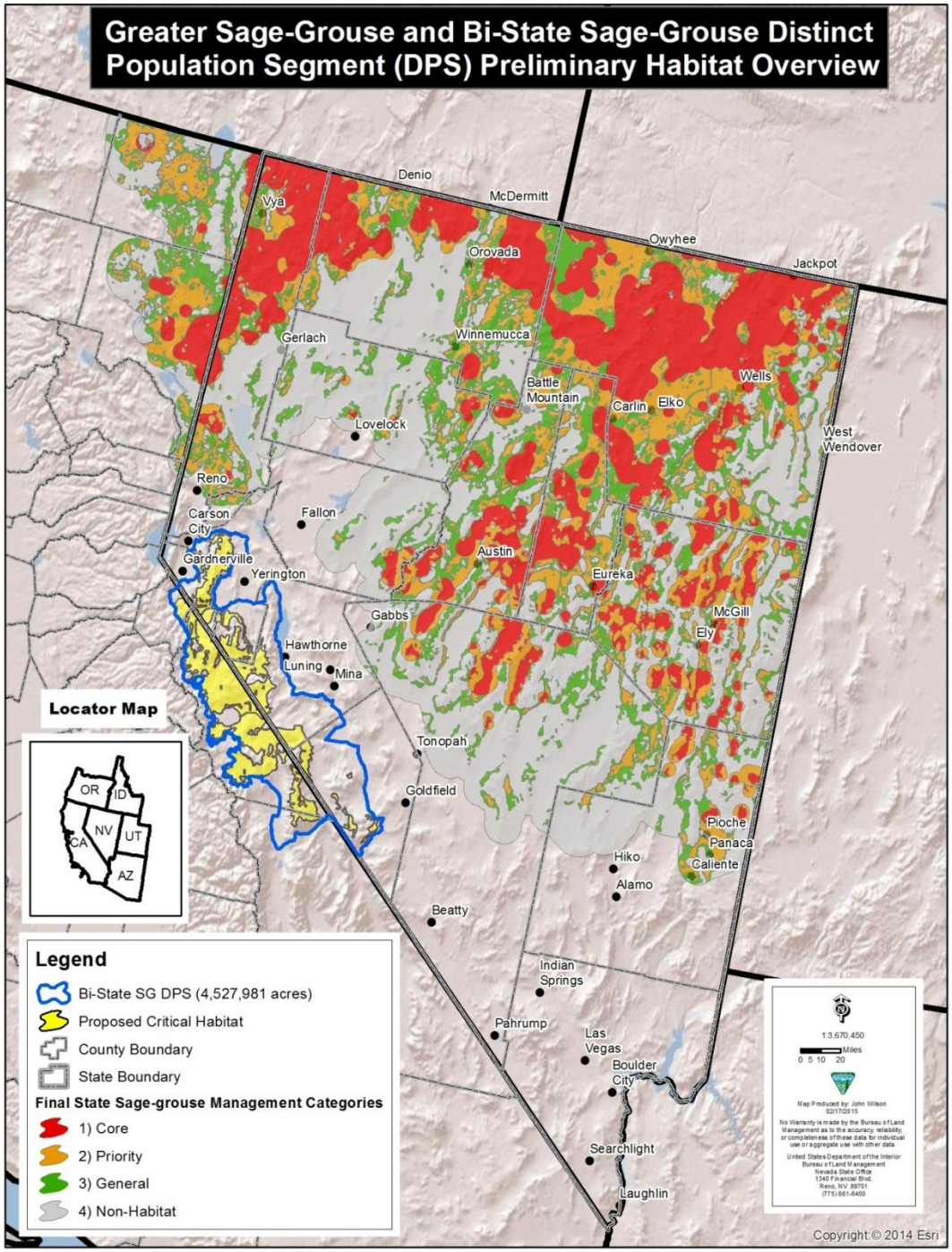
2015 Tri-RAC

- Sage Grouse
- Drought
- Wild Horse & Burro Program

Sage Grouse

2015 Tri-RAC

Greater Sage-Grouse and Bi-State Sage-Grouse Distinct Population Segment (DPS) Preliminary Habitat Overview



Bi-State Sage Grouse

- The Bi-State Sage-grouse are genetically distinct from Greater Sage-grouse and are considered a Distinct Population Segment by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for potential Endangered Species Act listing.
- Their population occurs only in eastern California and west central Nevada.
- The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest released the Final EIS and draft ROD for the Bi-state sage-grouse Forest Plan Amendment on February 6, 2015.
- The BLM is in the process of amending the Carson City District and Tonopah Field Office Resource Management Plans. These are not expected to be completed until sometime in 2016.
- Determination to list expected by FWS April 2015
- It is the intent of the current conservation and planning efforts that the DPS will no longer be warranted for listing.

Planning Documents Impacted by Bi-State Sage Grouse

Planning Documents	Action
Humboldt-Toiyabe Forest Plan (USFS)	Amendment
Inyo Forest Plan (USFS)	Amendment
Bishop RMP (BLM)	Plan is current
Carson City RMP (BLM)	Amendment and incorporate into current RMP revisions
Tonopah RMP (BLM)	Amendment and incorporate into current RMP revisions

Bi-state Local Area Working Group

- In 2012, the LAWG released the Bi-State Action Plan: Past, Present and Future Actions for Conservation of the Greater Sage-Grouse Bi-State Distinct Population Segment
- In June of 2014, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Land Management and other Bi-State partners announced a landmark agreement to accelerate and focus conservation efforts to fully carry out the Bi-State Action Plan. Securing budgets- 10 year plan
- The $45 million commitment to restore this geographically distinct population of sage grouse gives plenty of hope for a win-win result.
- The group also steered Sage Grouse Initiative dollars to where they were needed most: funding and leveraging more dollars for voluntary conservation easements that keep private ranchlands intact and invasive conifer removal, two of the top conservation priorities identified in the Bi-State Action Plan.

Greater Sage Grouse Planning Time Frames

Sub Regional Planning Effort	Final EIS	Record of Decision
Nevada-Northeastern California	Late Spring 2015	Mid Summer 2015
Idaho and Southwestern Montana	Late Spring 2015	Mid Summer 2015
Utah	Late Spring 2015	Mid Summer 2015
Oregon	Late Spring 2015	Mid Summer 2015

Implementation

- Developing a sage grouse implementation plan guidebook
- Developing budget strategy to address grazing permit renewals, land health assessments and monitoring in sage grouse habitat
- Developing a regional governance structure to address challenges associated with implementation
- Addressing workload capacity challenges
- Develop communication plan
- Follow up on actions and ideas from the Next Steppe conference
- Use the Fire and Invasives Assessment (FIAT) project to further reduce the threat of wildfire, invasive species, and conifer encroachment to sage-grouse in the Great Basin over the long term

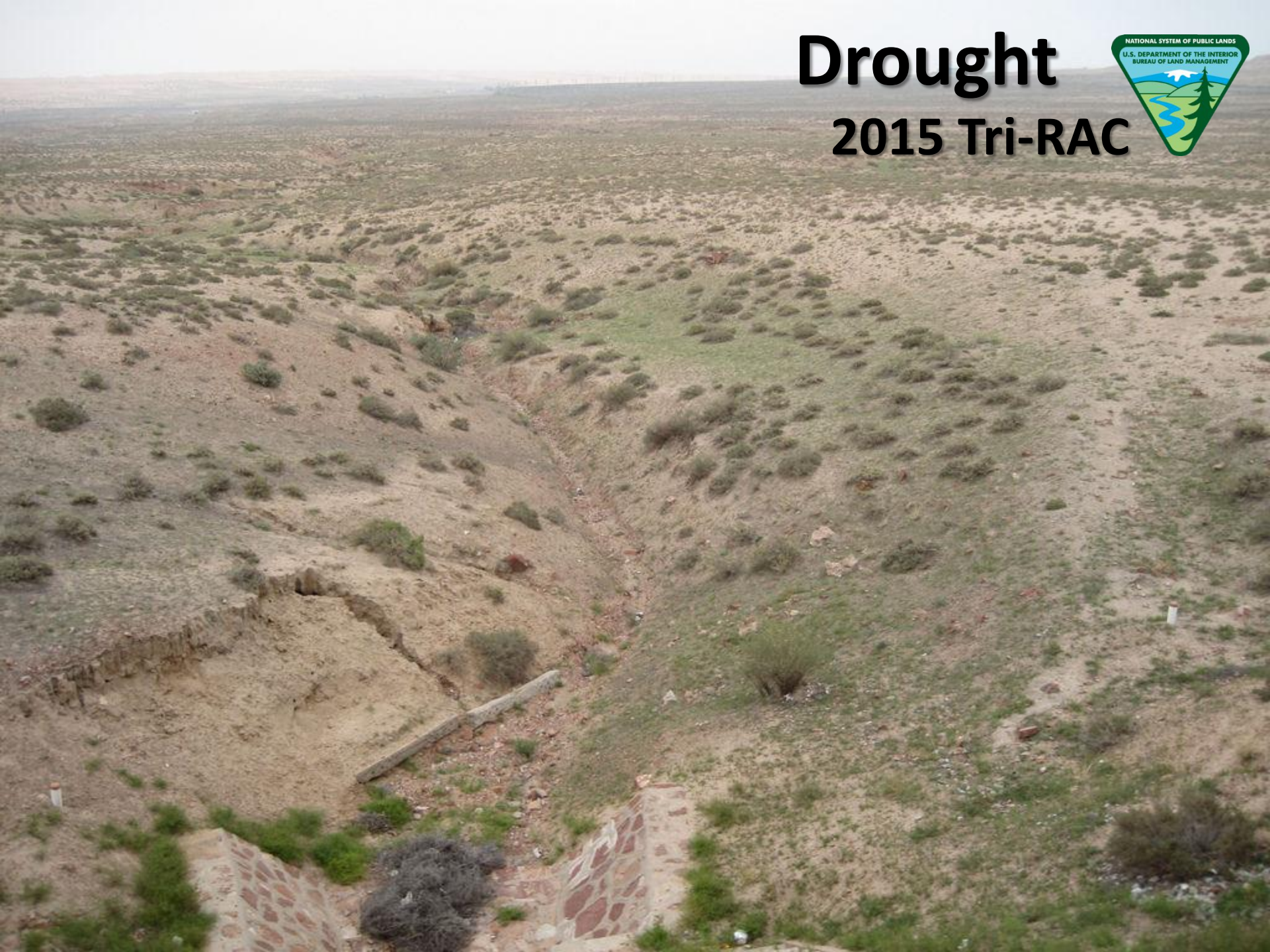
How Can the RAC Stay Engaged?

- We anticipate engagement as it relates to implementation of the plan.
- Ensure that information is distributed to the interest groups represented by the RAC.
- Other

Questions

Drought

2015 Tri-RAC



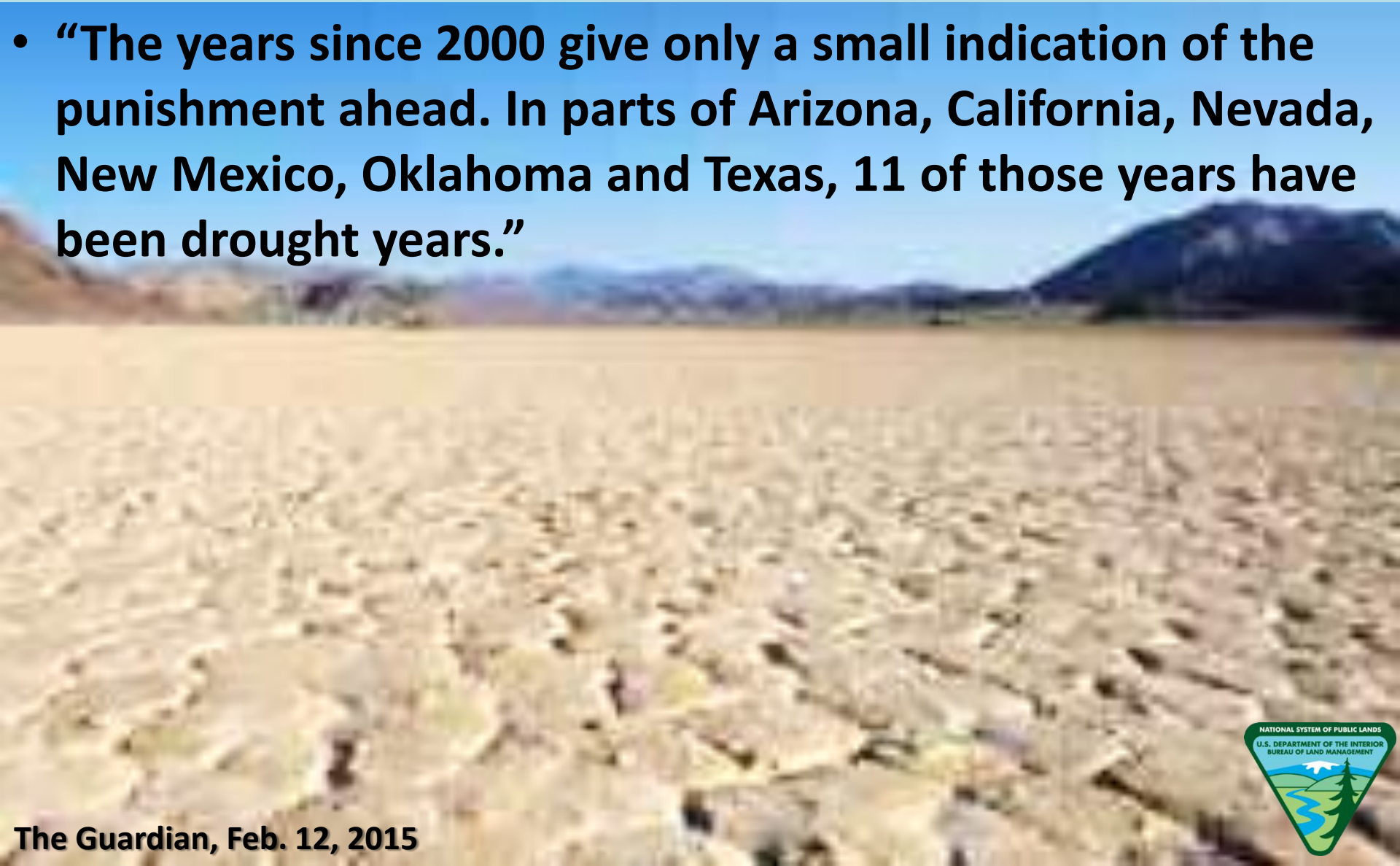
Drought Related Current Events

- Feb. 9, 2015- The National Water and Climate Center reports below average precipitation in many western states. Nevada reported new record lows for January precipitation totals, 20-50% of normal snowpack for the western half of Nevada, making a recovery to normal by April unlikely.

- Feb. 4, 2015- All counties in Nevada were declared drought disaster areas by the Secretary of Agriculture

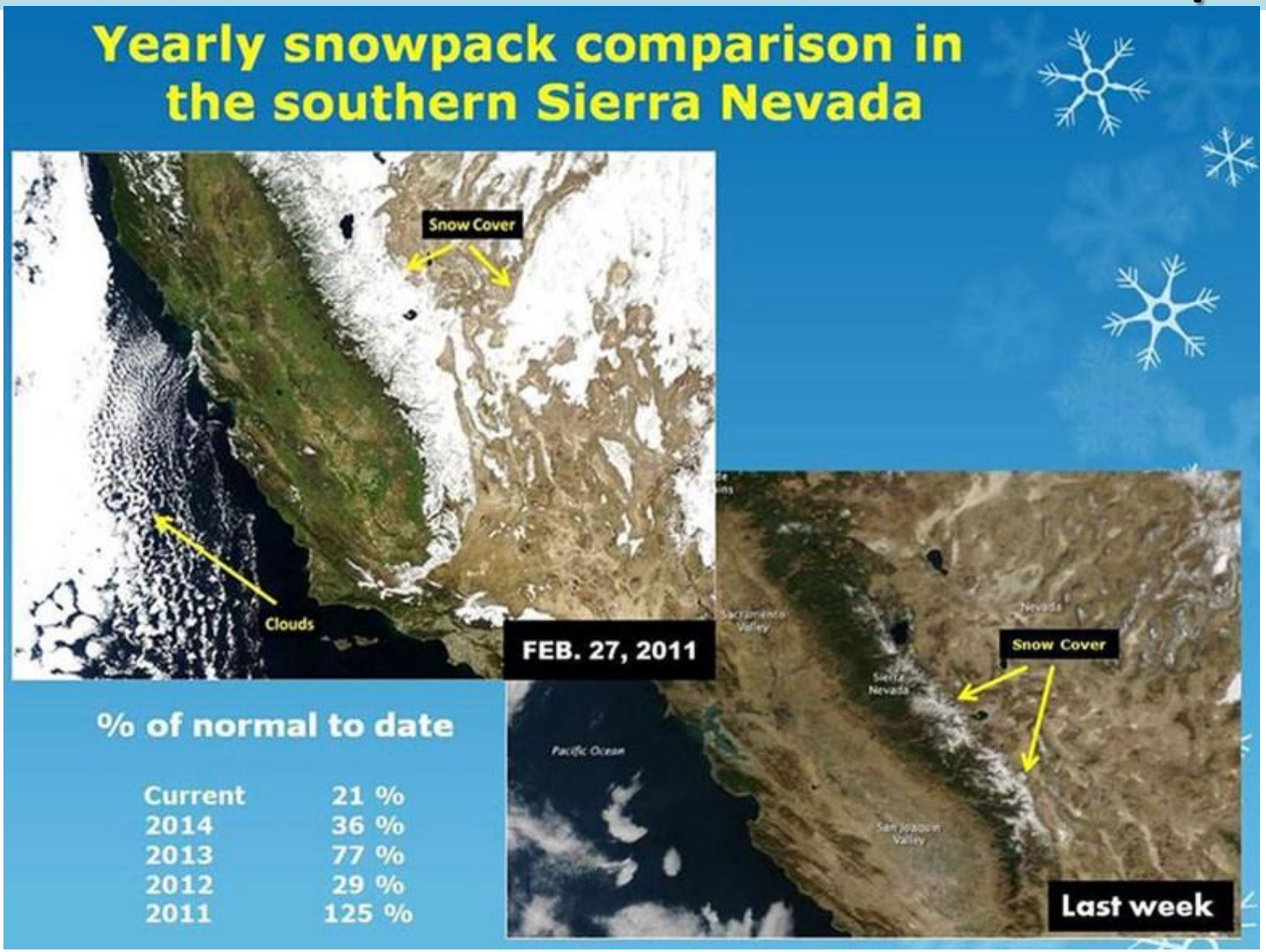
Headline: US faces worst droughts in 1,000 years predict scientists

- **“The years since 2000 give only a small indication of the punishment ahead. In parts of Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas, 11 of those years have been drought years.”**



The Guardian, Feb. 12, 2015

Headline: Above Normal Temperatures Melts 'Dismal' Sierra Nevada Snowpack



- Capital Public Radio, Feb. 19, 2015. Image from article http://bit.ly/1B7ySEy

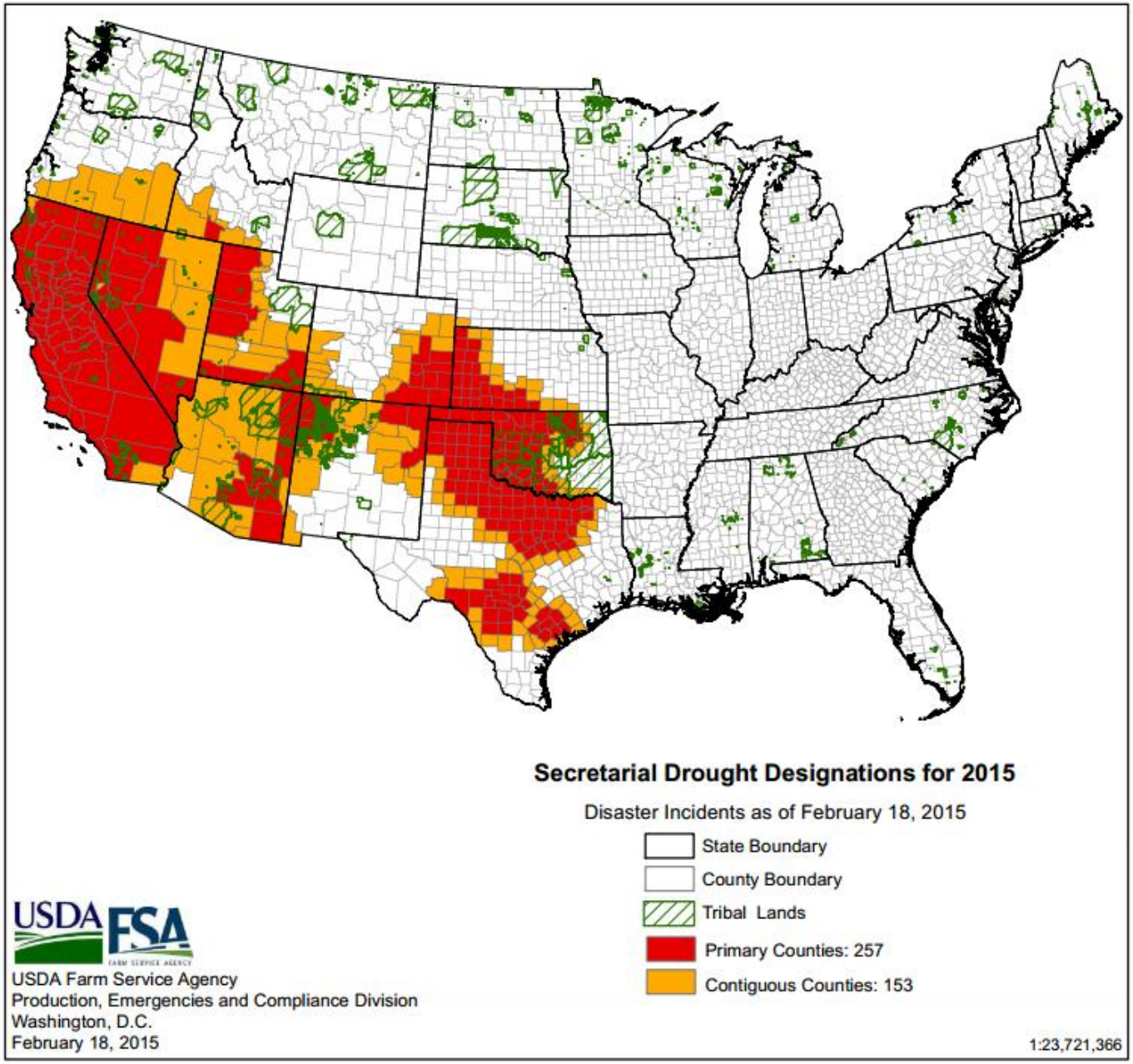
Headline: Reno photographer documents drought from the sky

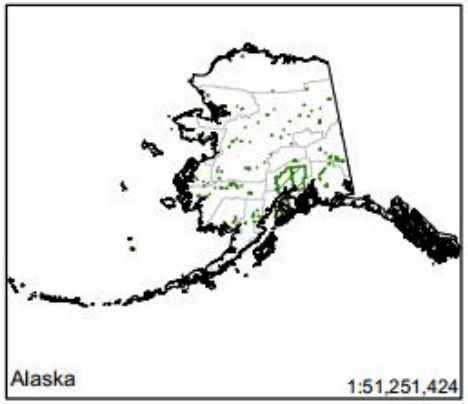
Washoe Lake, 2014

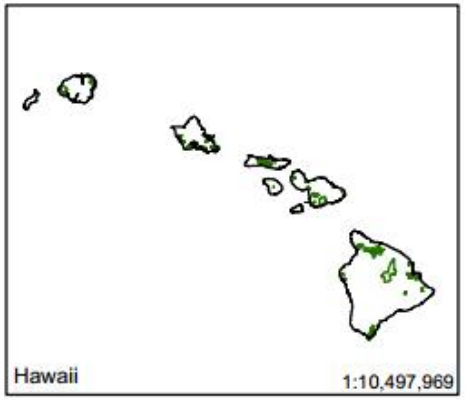
Lahontan Dam near Fallon, Nevada
Nov. 2014

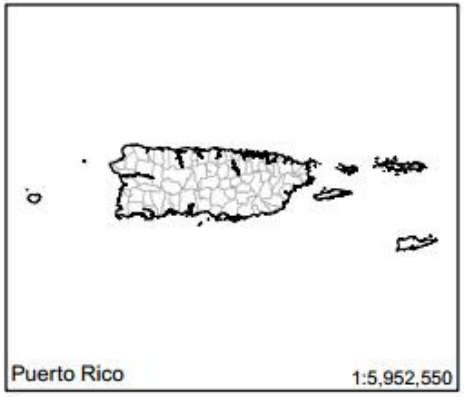
- Reno Gazette Journal, Feb. 5, 2015. Images by Nolan Preece from article http://on.rgj.com/17JPQuW

2015 Secretarial Drought Designations - All Drought







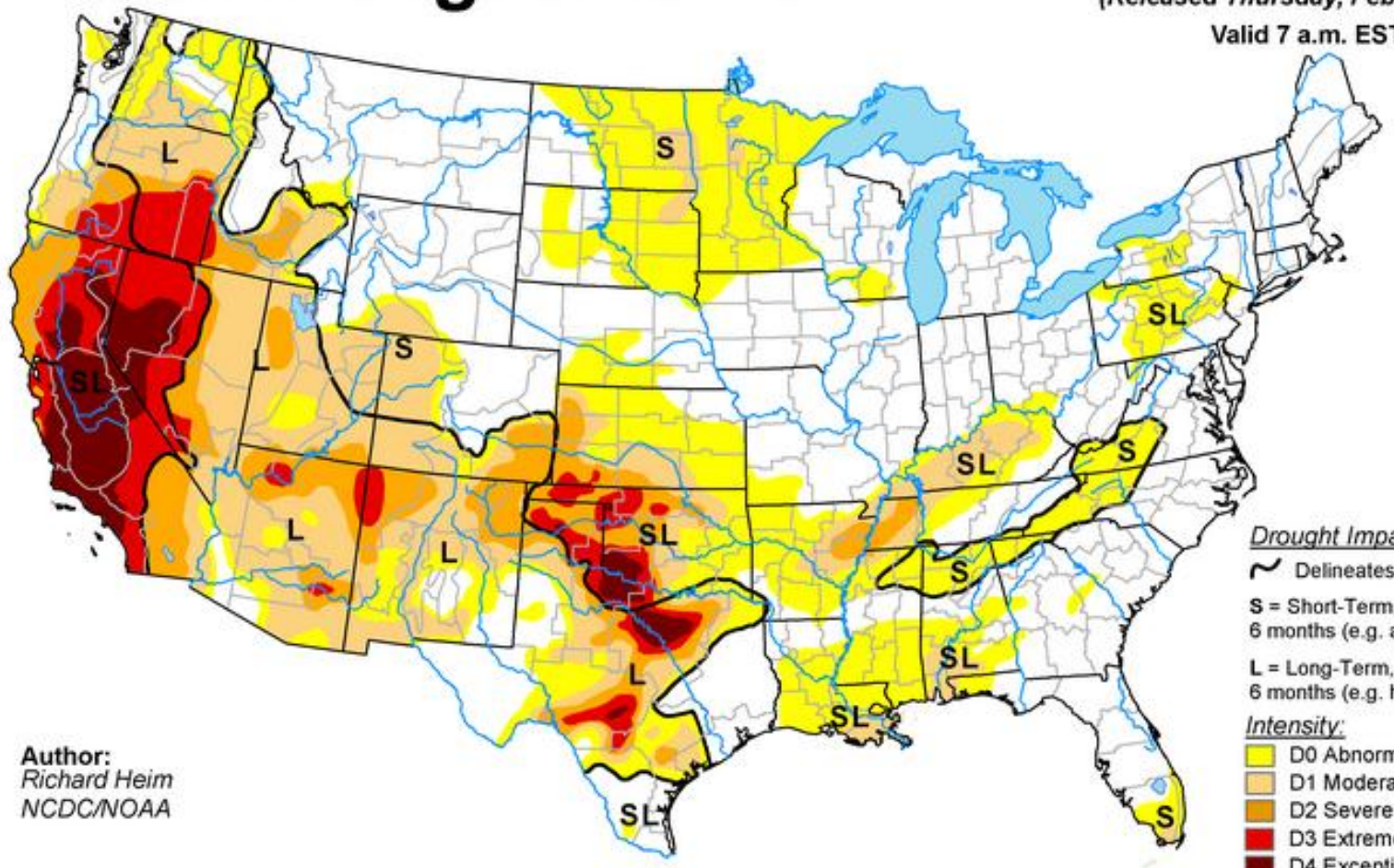


U.S. Drought Monitor

February 17, 2015

(Released Thursday, Feb. 19, 2015)

Valid 7 a.m. EST



Author:
Richard Heim
NCDC/NOAA

Drought Impact Types:

~ Delineates dominant impacts

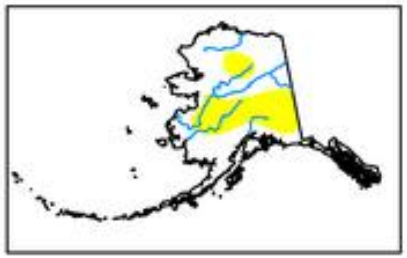
S = Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)

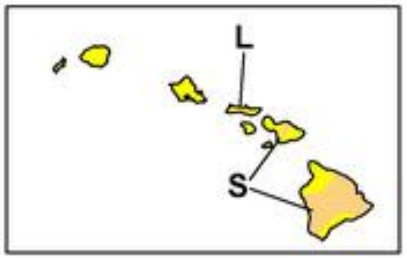
L = Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.



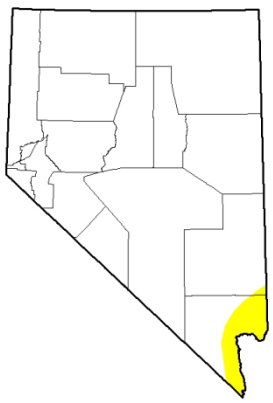


USDA

National Drought Mitigation Center

http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/

Nevada Drought Monitor 2006-2015



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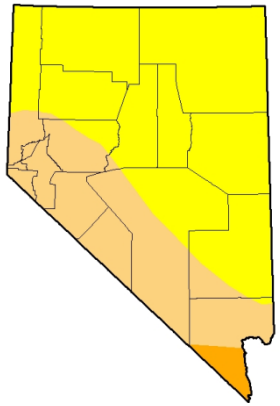

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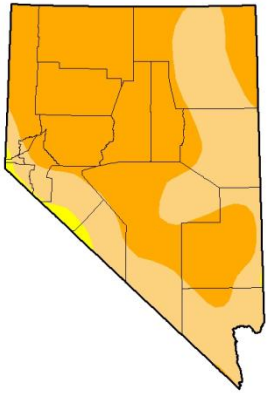

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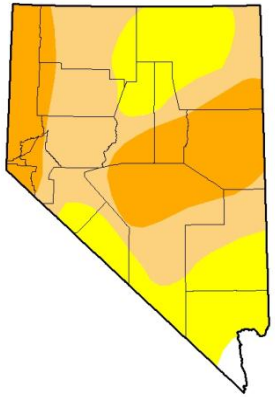

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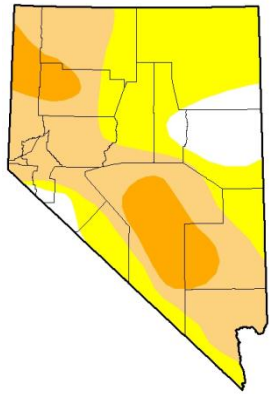
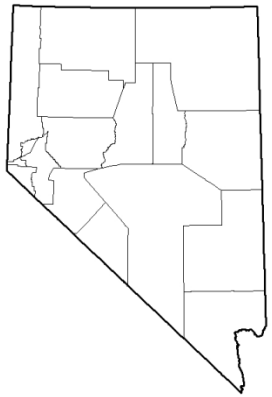


2/16/10

D0 - Abnormally Dry
D1 Drought - Moderate
D2 Drought - Severe
D3 Drought - Extreme
D4 Drought - Exceptional



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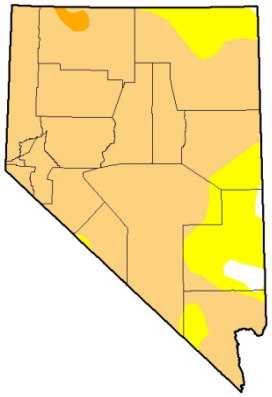

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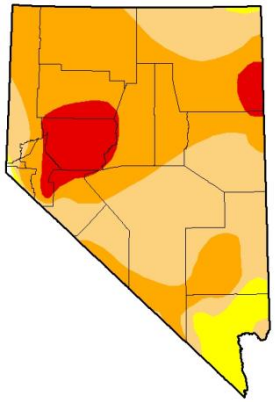

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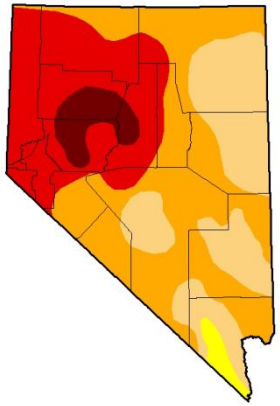

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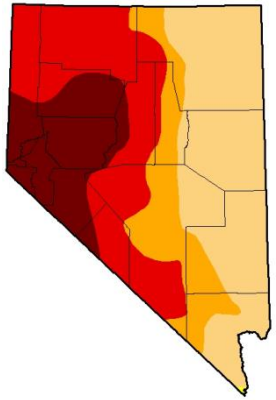
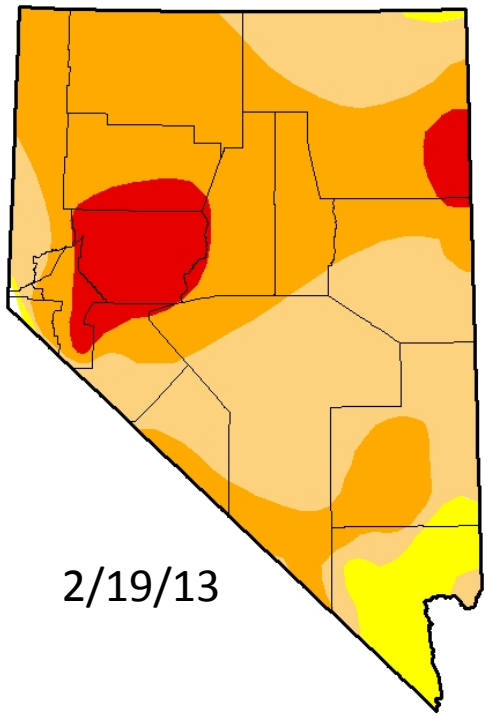


2/17/15

Nevada Drought Monitor 2013-2015



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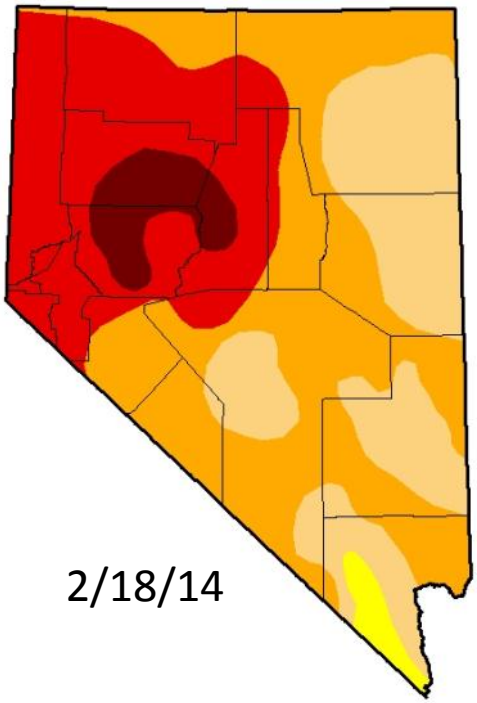

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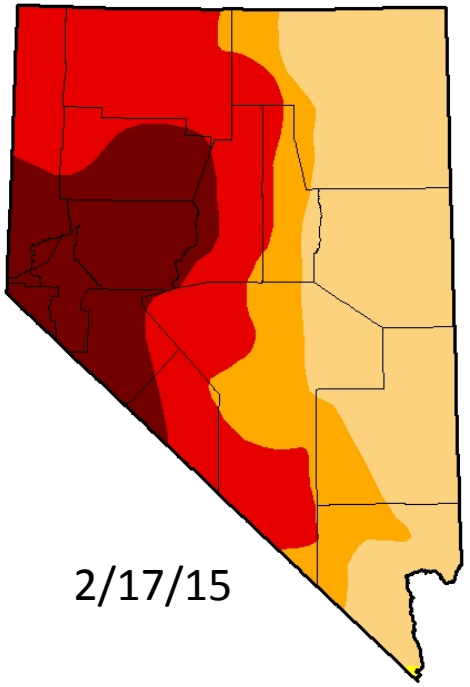


2/17/15

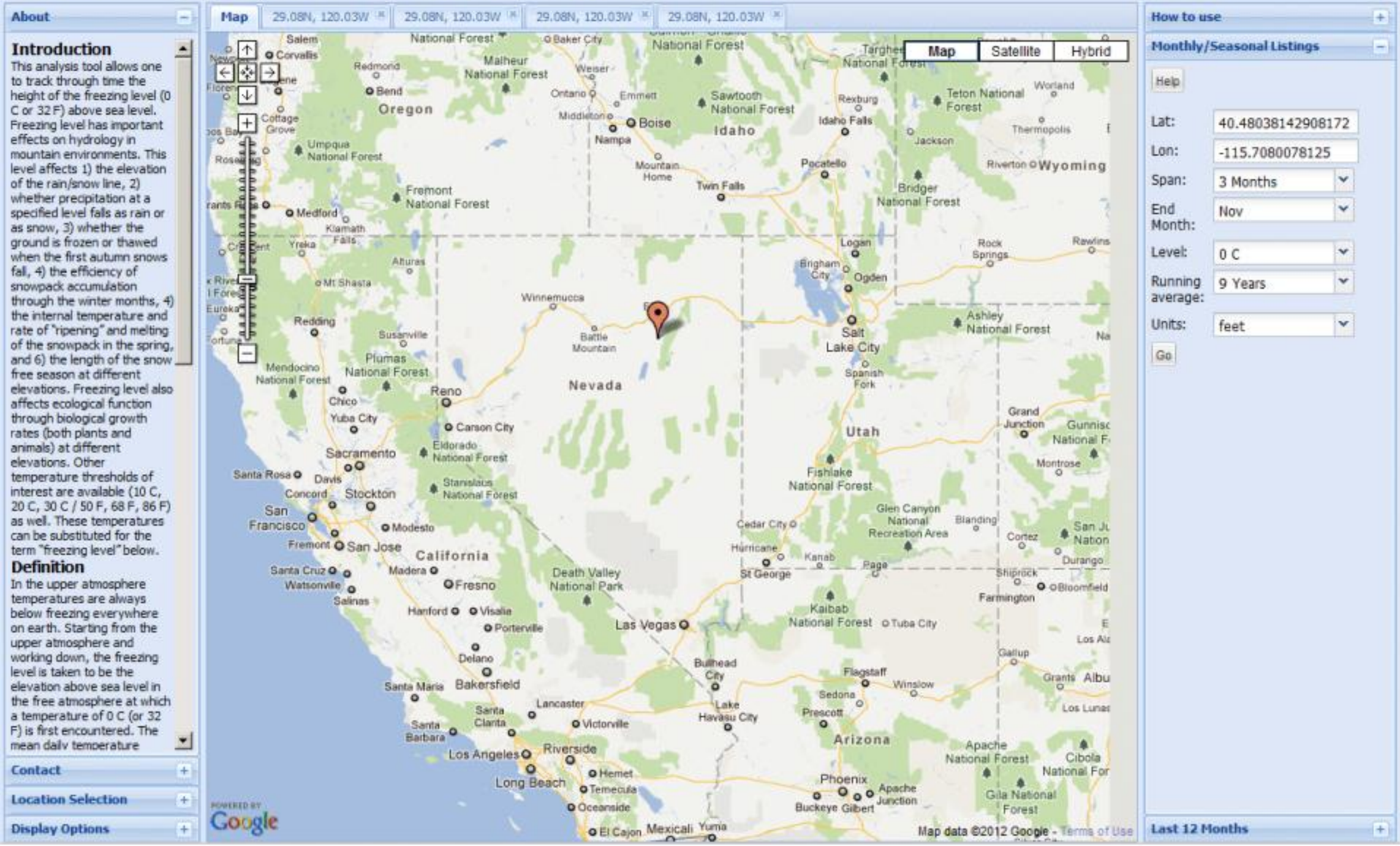
	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
2/19/13	0	6.17	37.65	46.78	9.28	0
2/18/14	0	1.73	25.32	39.54	28.04	5.37
2/17/15	0	.07	36.74	15.23	28.04	18.38

D0 - Abnormally Dry
D1 Drought - Moderate
D2 Drought - Severe
D3 Drought - Extreme
D4 Drought - Exceptional

NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC LANDS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Select: Lamoille area, Monthly values, Temperature 0 C, 9-year running mean.

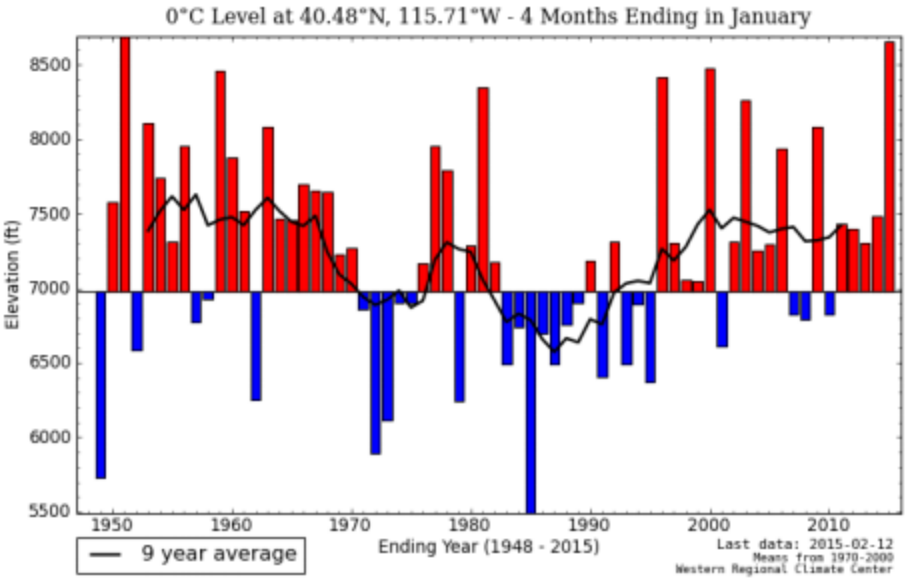
North American Freezing Level Tracker



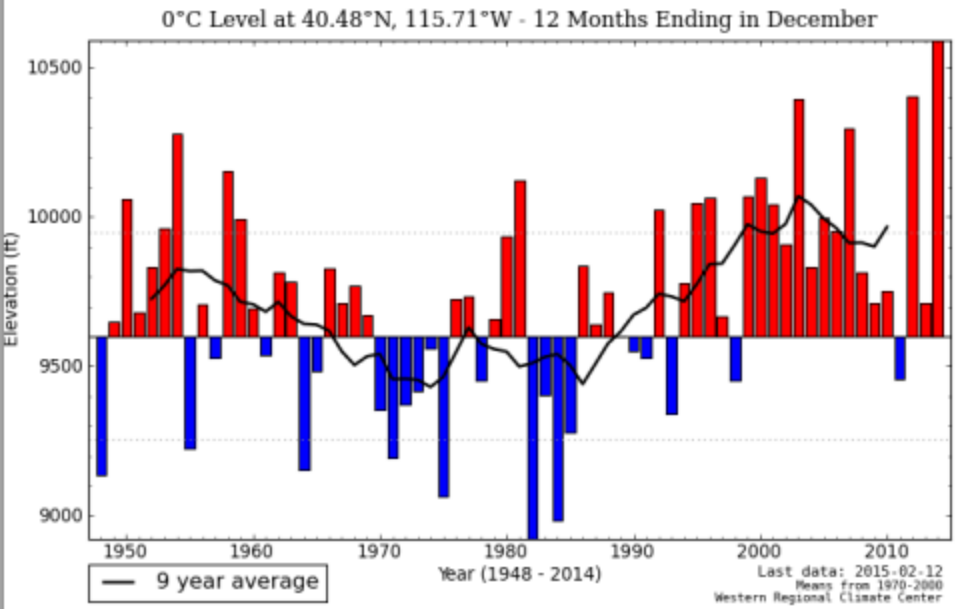
Western Regional Climate Center

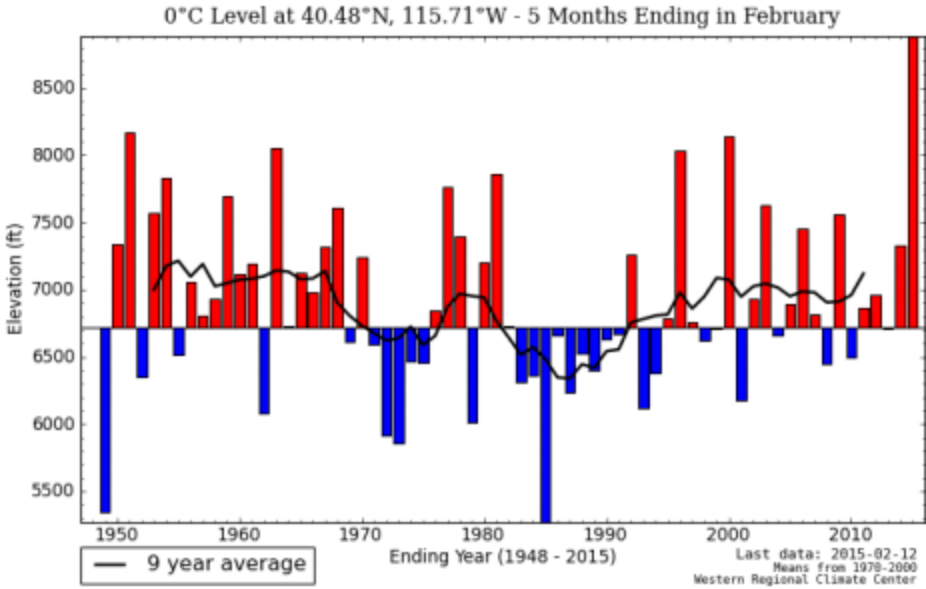
Freezing Level Near Ruby Mountains, Nevada Selected Months 1948 thru 2014 or 2015

Oct-Jan thru 2015

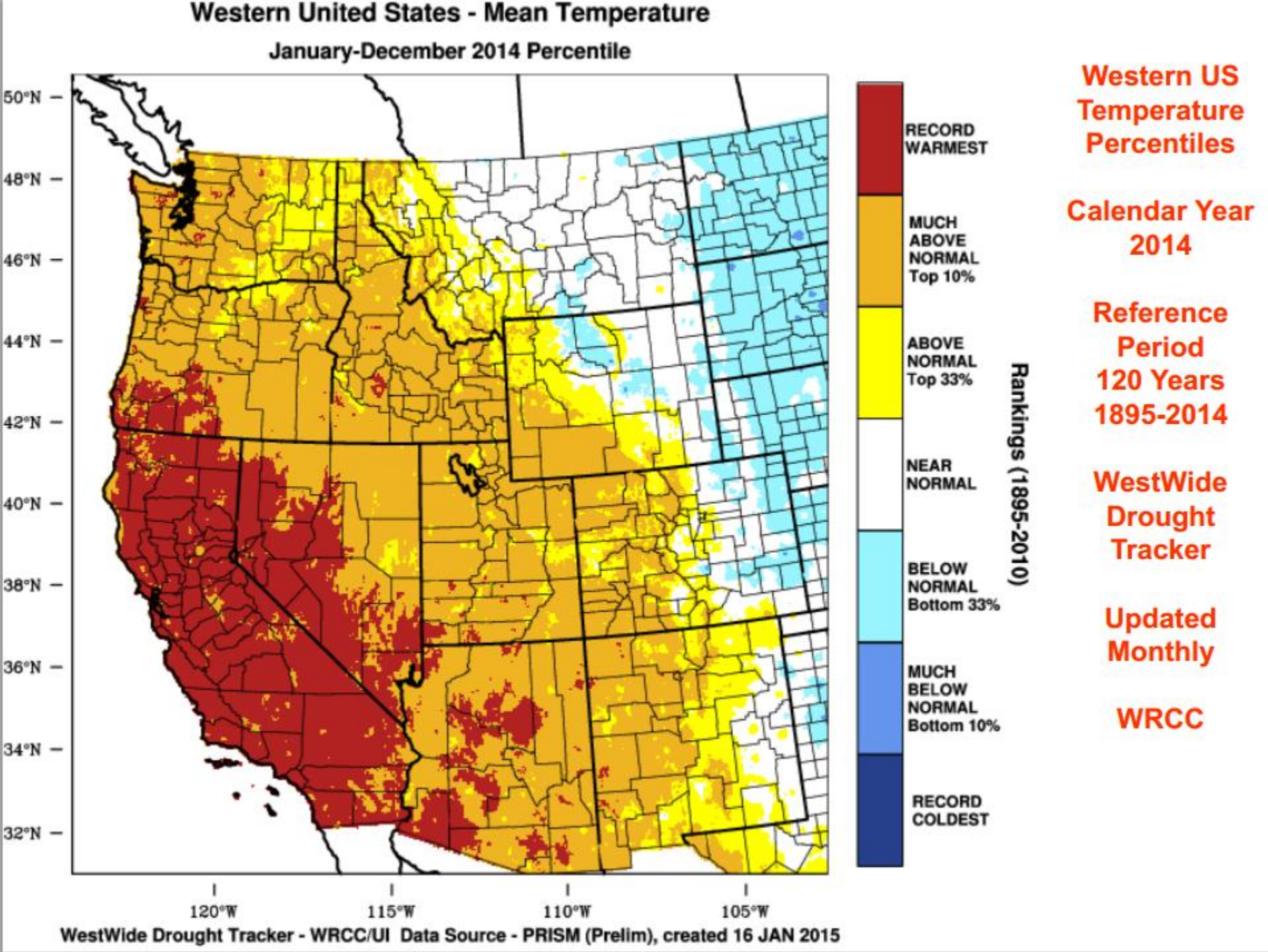


Annual Jan-Dec 1948 thru 2014





Oct-Feb thru 14 Feb 2015


Western United States - Mean Temperature
January-December 2014 Percentile
50°N
48°N
46°N
44°N
42°N
40°N
38°N
36°N
34°N
32°N
120°W
115°W
110°W
105°W
RECORD WARMEST
MUCH ABOVE NORMAL Top 10%
ABOVE NORMAL Top 33%
NEAR NORMAL
BELOW NORMAL Bottom 33%
MUCH BELOW NORMAL Bottom 10%
RECORD COLDEST
Rankings (1895-2010)
WestWide Drought Tracker - WRCC/UI Data Source - PRISM (Prelim), created 16 JAN 2015
Western US Temperature Percentiles
Calendar Year 2014
Reference Period 120 Years 1895-2014
WestWide Drought Tracker
Updated Monthly
WRCC

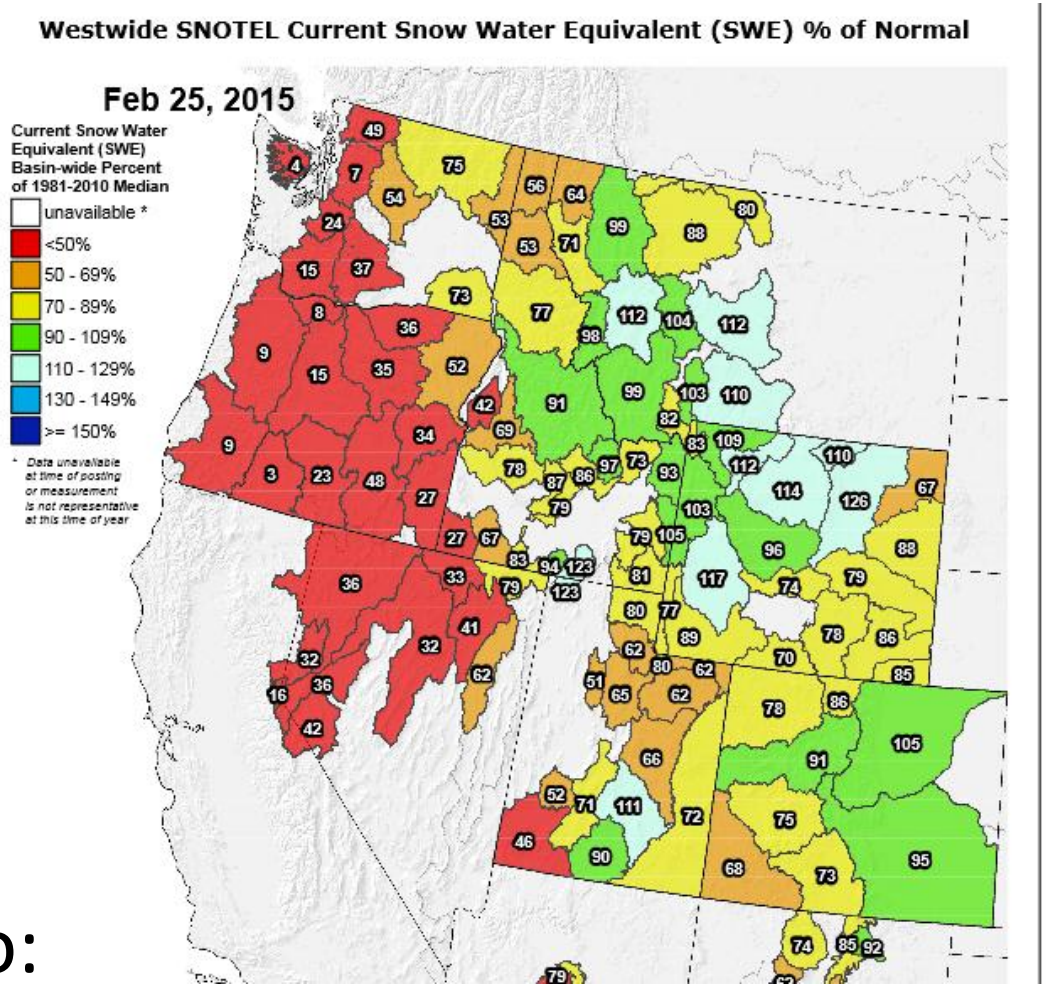
Data Sources for Drought Monitoring

- U.S. Drought Monitor
- VegDRI (Vegetation Drought Response Index)
- SNOTEL (SNOw pack Telemetry)
- RAWS (Remote Automatic Weather Stations)

U.S. Drought Monitor

- The U.S Drought Monitor is a weekly map of drought conditions across the nation that is jointly produced by a rotating group of eleven climatologists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC) at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.
- More info: www.drought.gov

SNOTEL

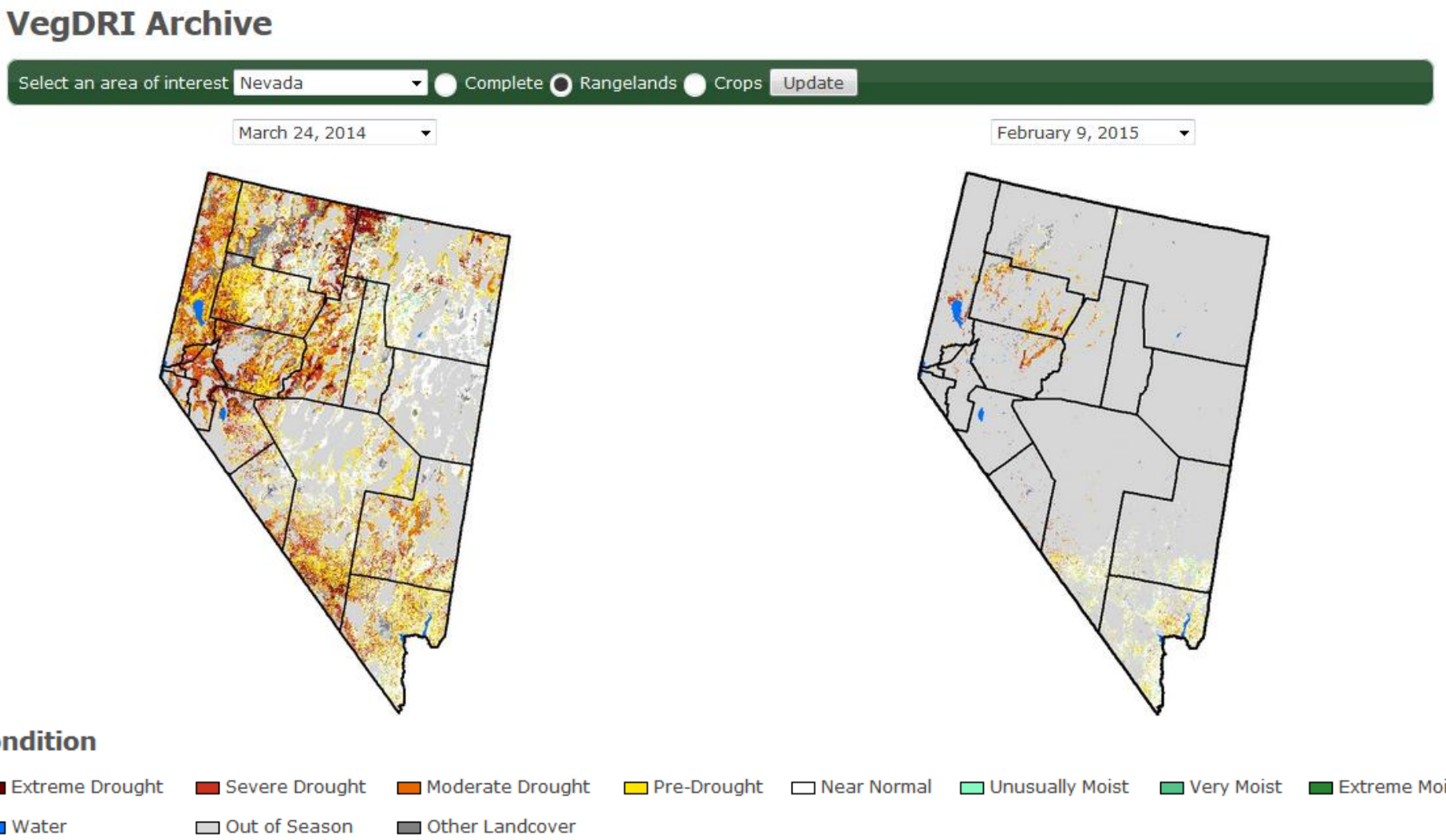


- More info: http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/snow/

VegDRI

- VegDRI is a bi-weekly depiction of vegetation stress across the contiguous US.
- It provides vegetation condition for both rangeland and crops.
- The data can be used to assess drought severity and track invasive species.

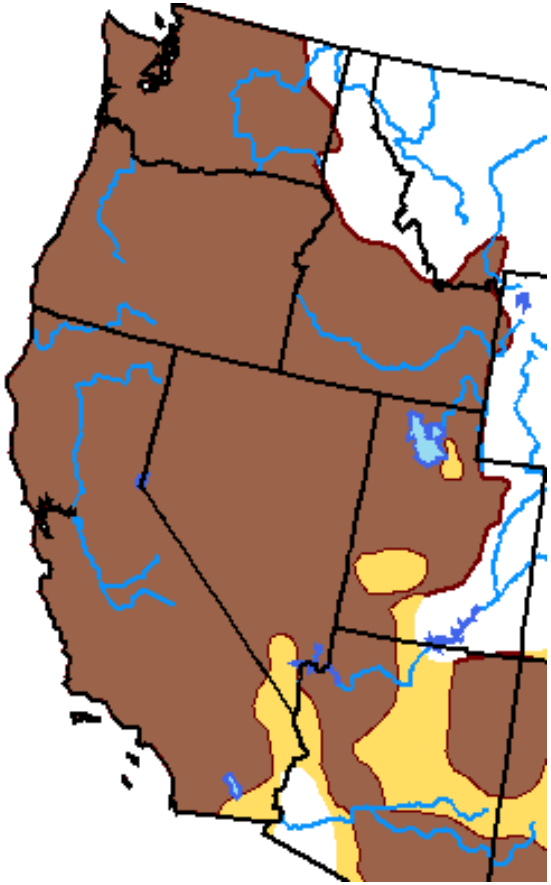
VegDRI



More info:
http://vegdri.unl.edu/Home/StateVegDRI.aspx?NV

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Comparison

January 2014



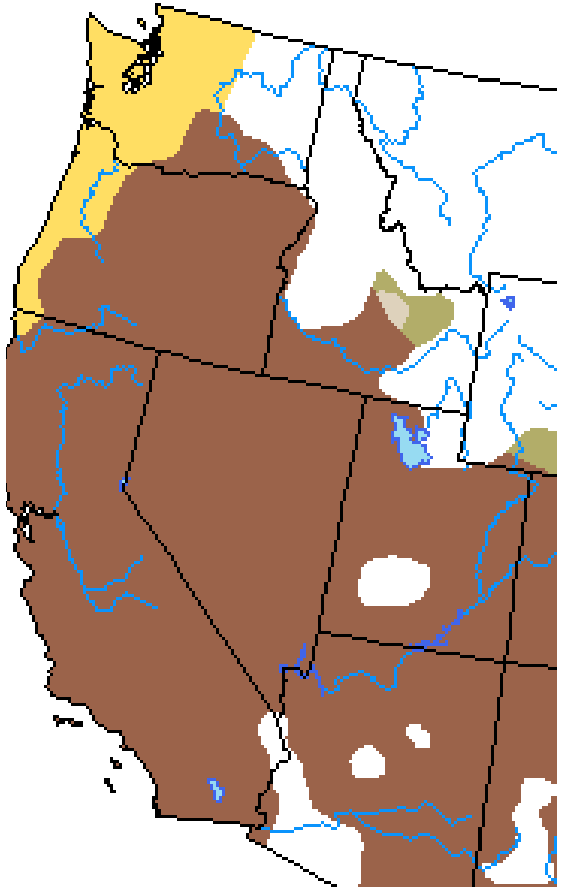
Drought to persist or intensify

Drought ongoing, some improvement

Drought likely to improve, impacts ease

Drought development likely

February 2015



Source: National Weather Service Seasonal Drought Outlook

What is the BLM doing about drought?

- Continuing communication with permittees and attempting to work through challenges
- Continued voluntary non-use requests to permittees
- Continued monitoring of rangelands
- Issuing range decisions as necessary
- Removing excess wild horses and burros as necessary
- Completed a review with internal and external audiences on drought and other related resource topics.

Questions

Wild Horse and Burro Program

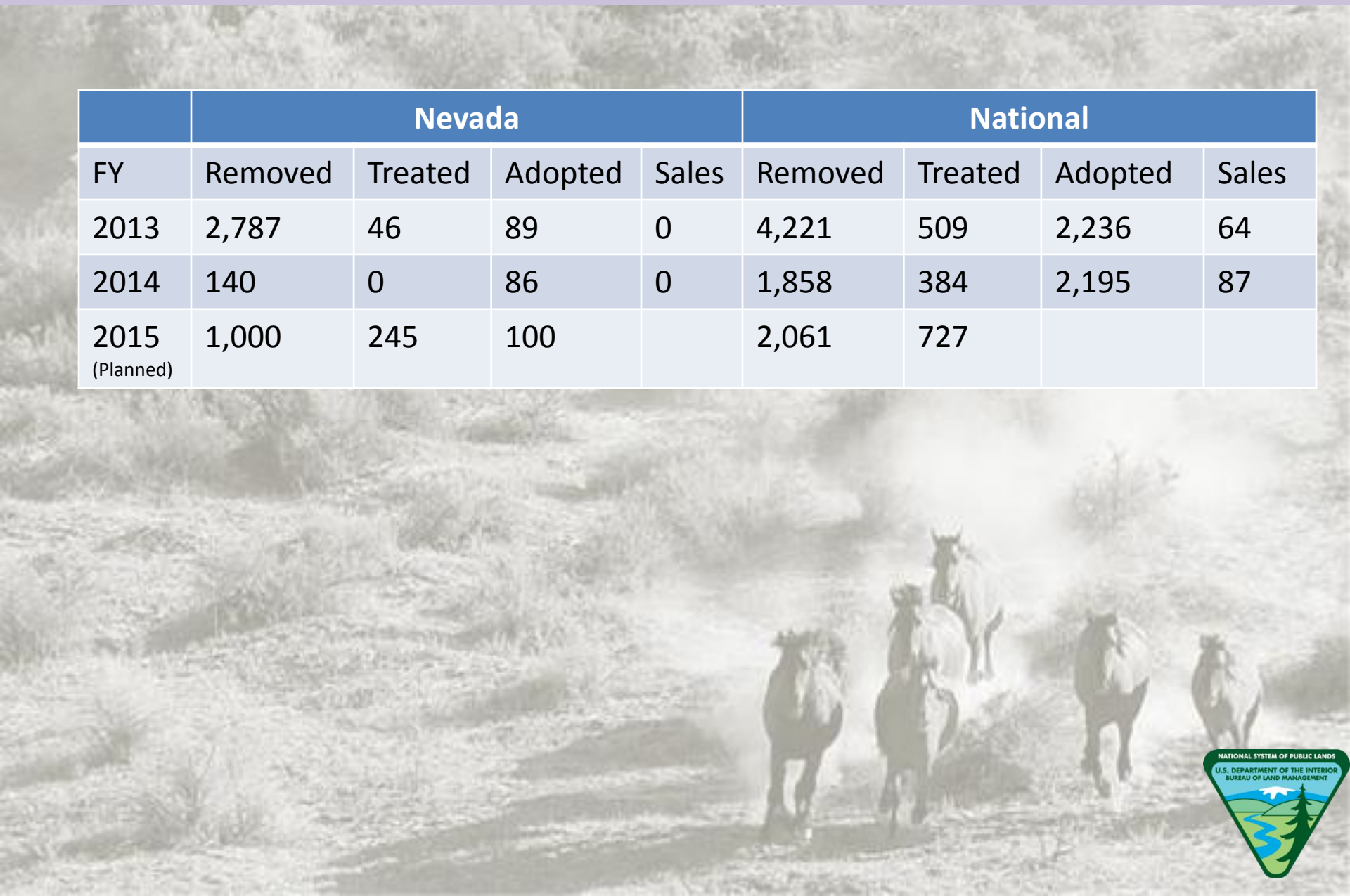
2015 Tri-RAC

Population Estimate

- **National: 49,209 (March 1, 2014)**
- **Nevada: 30,000-32,500**
- **National AML is 26,600**
- **Nevada AML: 12,688**
- **89 percent of Nevada HMAs are at or above AML**

Wild Horse and Burro Data

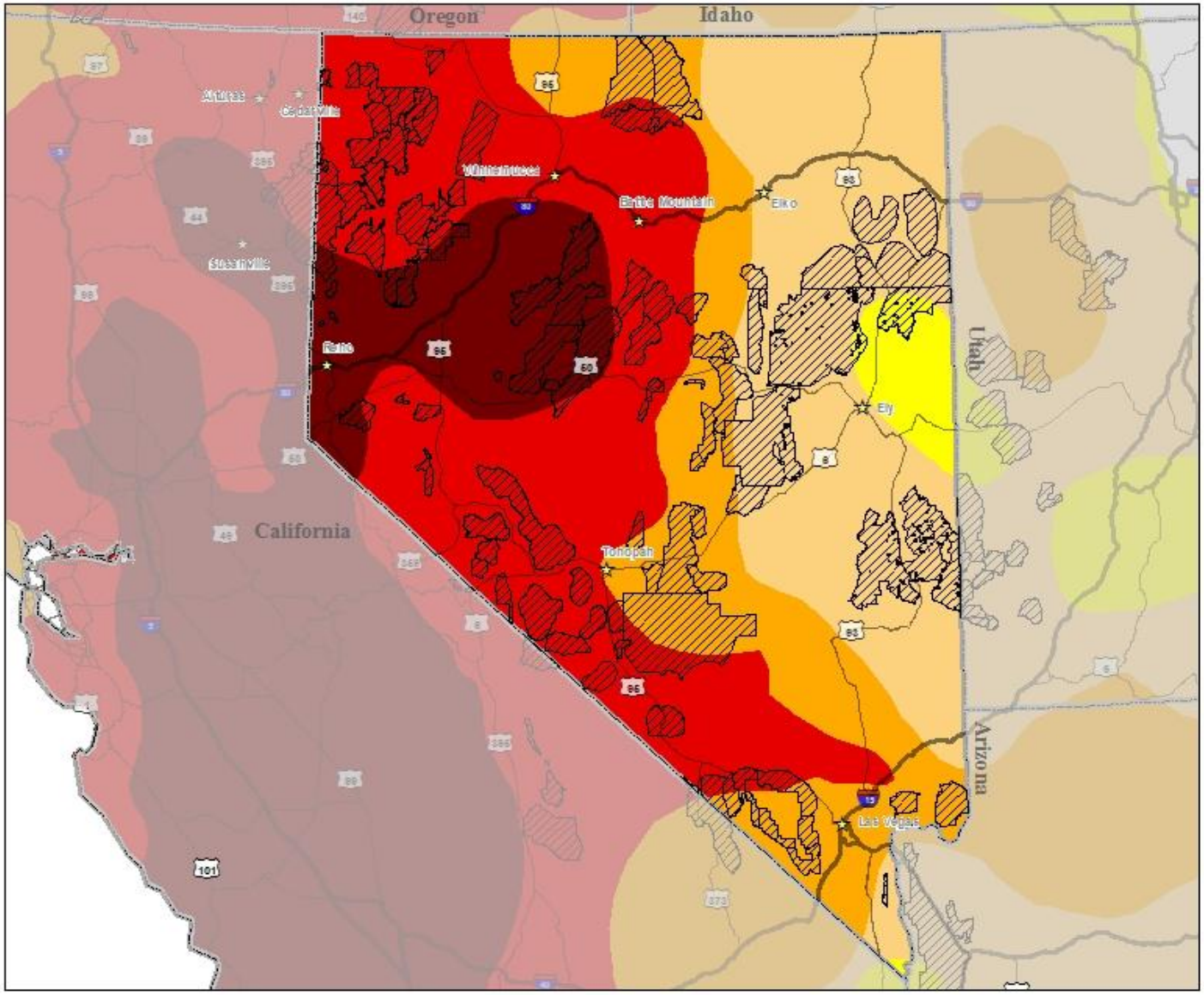
	Nevada				National			
FY	Removed	Treated	Adopted	Sales	Removed	Treated	Adopted	Sales
2013	2,787	46	89	0	4,221	509	2,236	64
2014	140	0	86	0	1,858	384	2,195	87
2015 (Planned)	1,000	245	100		2,061	727		



Impacts of Drought on Wild Horses and Burros

- **Wild horses have moved as far as 20 miles outside of HMAs for forage and water.**
- **Average body condition of horses continues to be a concern in many areas.**
- **Range and riparian condition continues to decline**

Nevada Drought Conditions and HMAs
February 10, 2015



Legend

- Abnormally Dry
- Drought - Moderate
- Drought - Severe
- Drought - Extreme
- Drought - Exceptional
- Herd Management Areas

0 20 40 80 Miles

What is BLM doing about WH&B Nationally?

- **Reviewing research proposals into new techniques for slowing population growth.**
- **Continuing partnership with USGS to improve our population surveys and research into PGS.**
- **Exploring options to improve the success of our adoption program and for lower cost off-range holding.**
- **Comprehensive animal welfare program will be released this year.**

Challenges Facing WH&B in Nevada?

- **Dealing with the challenge of limited to no gather opportunities.**
- **Animal and range health are declining.**
- **Growth of wild horse populations does not seem to be affected by drought.**
- **Due to drought, budget and holding capacity, BLM NV will be faced with making decisions with few good options**

How is Nevada addressing WH&B challenges?

- **We are looking at ways to increase adoption of Nevada horses and burros.**
- **Developing projects aimed at population growth suppression as a result of the RAC's recommendation.**
- **Focusing on sage grouse habitat and getting the Bi-state area to AML.**

Questions